GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6645
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
OVERFLOWING FOODGRAIN GODOWNS
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrain in the godowns of the Central Government and the State Government in Punjab are overflowing;

(b) whether the Punjab Government have requested for the removal of the foodgrain from its godown keeping in mind the chances of the foodgrain getting rotten; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a): On 1.4.2002, The Food Corporation of India (FCI) had stocks of 109.42 lakh MT in Punjab, against their total storage capacity of 131.81 lakh MT.

As per information received from the Government of Punjab, as on 6.5.2002, the StateGovernment and its agencies are holding 167.40 lakh tonnes of wheat. About 80% of these stocks are stored on pucca plinth and remaining 20% are stored on katcha plinth.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The following measures have been taken to move the stocks and to increase the storage capacity in the State of Punjab:-

(i) Though there are movement constraints due to the limited storage space in the recipient States yet FCI has been able to move 12.3 lakh MTs of wheat lying with the State procuring agencies from Punjab between October, 2001 and January, 2002.

(ii) Field Officers of FCI have been delegated full powers for hiring of additional storage capacity from the State Agencies like State Government/Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporations and from private parties as and when required.

(iii) Further, Punjab State Warehousing Corporation has been given sanction to create additional storage capacity of 46.01 lakh tonnes (41.60 covered & 4.41 lakh tonnes CAP) under the SevenYear Guarantee Scheme. Out of this, 17.55 lakh tonnes (14.86 lakh tonnes Covered & 2.69 lakh tonnes CAP) has already been created.

(iv) During the current Annual Plan (2002-03), FCI has also proposed to construct own storagecapacity of 5,000 MT at Malout and 23,340 MT at Tanda in Punjab.